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CONFIDENTIAL
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, ICAPS

DATE: 29 January 1947

FROM : Assistant Director, Office of Collection
& Dissemination

SUBJECT: Publications Review

400199

1. Under date of 19 April 1946, in a memorandum to the Director of Central Intelligence (inclosure 1), the Joint Intelligence Committee called attention to its Publications Review Subcommittee and stated that in the opinion of the Joint Intelligence Committee, the functions exercised through such subcommittee were within the cognizance of the National Intelligence Authority and should be assumed by the Authority. In acknowledging this letter, the Director of Central Intelligence advised the Joint Intelligence Committee that a study would be initiated in connection with its suggestion (inclosure 2).

2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff in March 1943 had directed the Joint Intelligence Committee to review all papers published and distributed by the intelligence agencies of the War and Navy Departments and make periodic recommendations with a view to eliminating duplication and unnecessary reports and curtailing excessive distribution. In January 1944, Joint Intelligence Committee created the Publications Review Subcommittee to perform the assigned responsibility, which Publications Review Subcommittee thereafter did in an informal manner until the cessation of actual hostilities, when, for practical purposes, it ceased to function, and it has done absolutely nothing since January 1946.

3. The Publications Review Subcommittee originally started operations on the basis it would review all intelligence papers published by A-2, G-2, ONI and OSS which were routine periodic or serial reports, all printed documents, and all reports reproduced in more than 10 copies. During the period of its operations its field was gradually limited so that, at the time of cessation of hostilities, it confined its review to publications of over 5,000 words and/or 20 illustrations, charts, etc., and those with a proposed circulation of over 100 copies. Also exempted from review were D.N.I. monographs, MID Strategic Surveys, and JANIS publications.

4. The function of reviewing intelligence publications for purposes of eliminating undesirable duplication and unnecessary reports, and insuring adequate dissemination would seem to be a responsibility of the NIA and CIG in view of the President's directive that "all Federal foreign intelligence activities be planned, developed and coordinated so as to assure the most effective accomplishment of the intelligence mission". Therefore, CIG should assume the functions heretofore performed by Publications Review Subcommittee as set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 above. However, these functions are limited to War and Navy

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Department publications and have been arbitrarily restricted to publications of certain size and circulation. CIG has a much broader responsibility under the Presidential directive -- it should inquire into all intelligence publications issued by Federal agencies, limited only by practical considerations in the matter of size and circulation.

5. It is believed desirable to examine all publications which are issued on a recurring or periodical basis, regardless of size or circulation. With singly-issued publications, it is believed that only those with an appreciable amount of circulation, say over 20 copies, should be referred to CIG for review. Also, in connection with the latter type, the matter should be approved by CIG prior to publication, *unless time element prevents.* With periodicals, it does not appear to be practicable to review in advance, and the purpose of review will be well served by examining the publications after they have been published, as an occasional overlapping or duplication in such summaries would not be serious (and may be desirable in some cases) -- it would be only after a period of time or a number of issues indicated the trend or practice of a publication that corrective action would be required.

6. With respect to content of publications, it is obvious that only the finished product or summarized intelligence should be reviewed by CIG for the purposes contemplated by this study. Reports and papers containing "raw" intelligence or intelligence information should, of course, be available to CIG, but not for review as to duplication, etc. The handling by and within CIG of such intelligence information does not come within the purview of this paper.

7. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Director of Central Intelligence, with the concurrence of the Intelligence Advisory Board, announce a policy substantially similar to that set forth in inclosure 3, stating that the Central Intelligence Group will review intelligence publications issued by Federal agencies.

8. In the event such a policy is formally adopted as recommended in paragraph 7, it is further recommended that a letter similar to that set forth in inclosure 4 be dispatched to the Joint Intelligence Committee, and that a CIG Administrative Order similar to that set forth in inclosure 5 be promulgated.

9. This study and the draft of the inclosures 3, 4 and 5 have been coordinated informally with the Office of Reports & Estimates.

5 incls:

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1 - ltr fr JIC

2 - memo fr CIG

3 - CIG Dir. draft

4 - Memo to CIG draft

5 - CIG Adm. Order draft

Assistant Director for

Collection and Dissemination

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